

## 25<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Management of Cancers: A Case-Based Approach

# Supportive Oncology & Survivorship

Friday, March 7, 2025  
3:30PM



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### Panelists

#### **Surbhi Singhal, MD, UC Davis - Chair**

Chloe Lalonde, MD, UC Davis - Fellow, Case Presenter

#### Medical Oncology

Milana Dolezal, MD, Stanford

Sara Keck, MD, Providence Medical Group

Kavitha Ramchandran, MD, Stanford

Lidia Schapira, MD, Stanford

Anjali Sibley, MD, Stanford

#### Palliative Care and Supportive Oncology

Ayana Davis, RD, UCSF

Alex Fauer, PhD, UC Davis

Angela Laffan, NP, UCSF

Mike Rabow, MD, UCSF



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### Disclosures

Full Name	Role	Type of Financial Relationship	Company
Surbhi Singhal	Chair	Advisory Board or Panel	Caris and Oncohost
Chloe Sidney Broome Lalonde	Fellow	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Ayana Davis	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Milana Dolezal	Panelist	Advisory Board or Panel	AstraZeneca (once in 2024), Gilead (once in 2025)
Alex Fauer	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Sara Keck	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Angela Laffan	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Mike Rabow	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Kavitha Ramchandran	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Lidia Schapira	Panelist	Disclosed no relevant financial relationships.	
Anjali Sibley	Panelist	Grants/Research Support	Stanford Cancer Institute



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ANCO and i3 Health have mitigated all relevant financial relationships.

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### Case 1 – 67-year-old man with Stage IIB NSCLC

Incidentally found to have RLL lung nodule

**Dx:** NSCLC, adenocarcinoma, KRAS G12C+

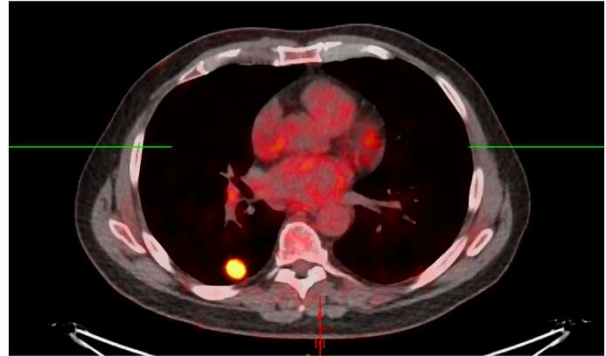
**Tx:** S/p lobectomy and mediastinal lymph node dissection, final staging **pT2aN1 (Stage IIB)**

**Performance status:** ECOG 1

**Past medical history:** hearing loss from prior construction work

**Social history:** former tobacco use (30 pack years), lives with wife and good family support

**SOC therapy:** adjuvant platinum/pemetrexed followed by immune checkpoint inhibitor



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### Case 1 – 67-year-old man who completed NSCLC treatment

Patient completes adjuvant platinum/pemetrexed followed by immune checkpoint inhibitor. Treatment largely uncomplicated, except patient reports new memory loss.

**Question 1:** In this 67-year-old man, ECOG 1, who has completed lung cancer treatment, who would you expect to perform the ongoing cancer survivorship care?

1. Cancer survivorship clinic
2. Geriatrics
3. Medical oncology
4. Palliative care
5. Primary care

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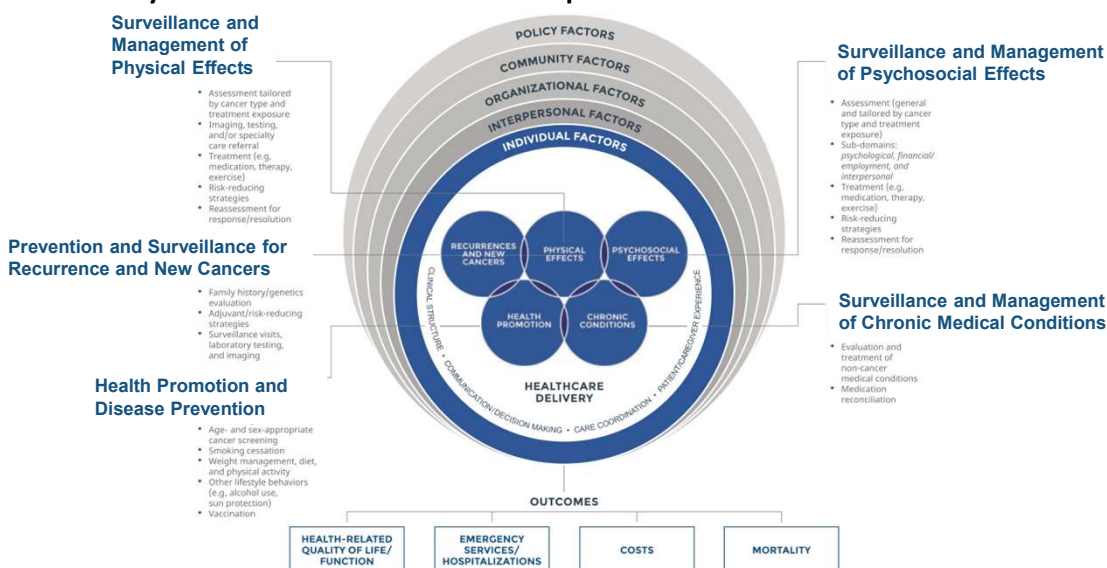
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### A Quality of Cancer Survivorship Care Framework



Nekhyludov et al., JNCI, 2019

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### Case 1 – 67-year-old man who completed NSCLC treatment

**Question 2: In this 67-year-old man who is reporting new memory loss after completion of cancer treatment, what would you recommend next?**

1. Brain MRI
2. Formal neuropsychiatric testing
3. Mini cognitive assessment in clinic
4. Neurology evaluation
5. Trial of donepezil

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### Case 1 – 67-year-old man who completed NSCLC treatment

The patient undergoes brain MRI that shows no evidence of disease. He is referred for formal neuropsychiatric testing and awaiting his appointment. He starts donepezil with mild improvement in his symptoms. His scans continue to show no evidence of disease recurrence.

#### Take Home Messages

**Cancer survivorship care is multifaceted** and includes management of chronic effects from cancer treatment, evaluation for disease recurrence and secondary cancers, management of chronic medical conditions, and management of psychosocial conditions.



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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

He presents to a local hospital with 6 months of progressive chest pain, fatigue, and **unintentional weight loss**, found to have large mediastinal mass, and is diagnosed with thymic carcinoma.

**Tumor board:** not surgical candidate due to vessel involvement

Started on concurrent weekly carboplatin/paclitaxel with radiation

At his follow up visit 2 weeks into treatment, noted to have further weight loss (additional 5% of body weight). Upon further questioning, he reports poor appetite.



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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

Patient is recommended to start Ensure supplementation. At his follow up visit in 2 weeks, he has lost additional weight.

**Question 1: Which diagnosis would you apply for this patient with ~10% unintentional weight loss and fatigue?**

1. Normal cancer process
2. Unintentional weight loss
3. Pre-cachexia
4. Cancer cachexia
5. Refractory cachexia



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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

He is evaluated by RD, recommended additional oral supplementation, and his weight loss stabilizes by the end of treatment.

14 months later, he re-presents with progressive severe chest pain, fatigue, and weight loss. Found to have **biopsy proven disease recurrence** with metastases to liver and bone.

Developed progressive disease after 3 cycles of carboplatin/paclitaxel. ECOG performance status (PS) now 2.

Starts on 2L gemcitabine monotherapy with plan to add capecitabine pending PS.

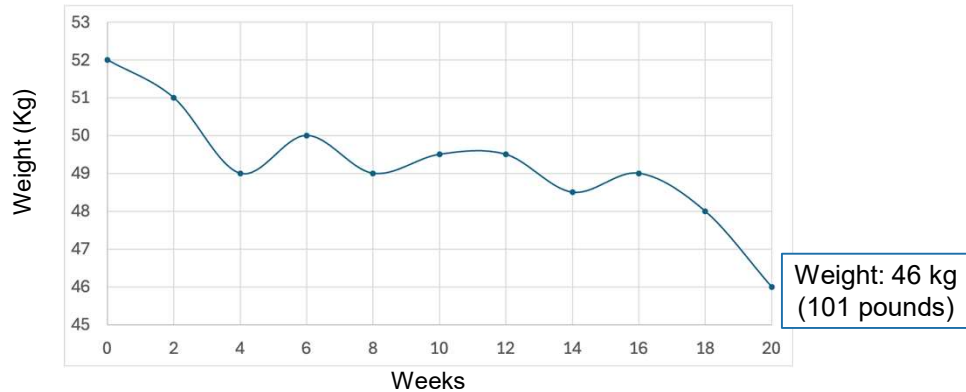


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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

Continuing to work with RD and increase oral supplementation, but ongoing weight loss.









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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

**Question 2: What would you recommend for this patient with cancer cachexia on palliative intent 2L chemotherapy?**

1. Cannabinoid
2. Dexamethasone
3. Olanzapine
4. Progesterone analog
5. Referral for G tube





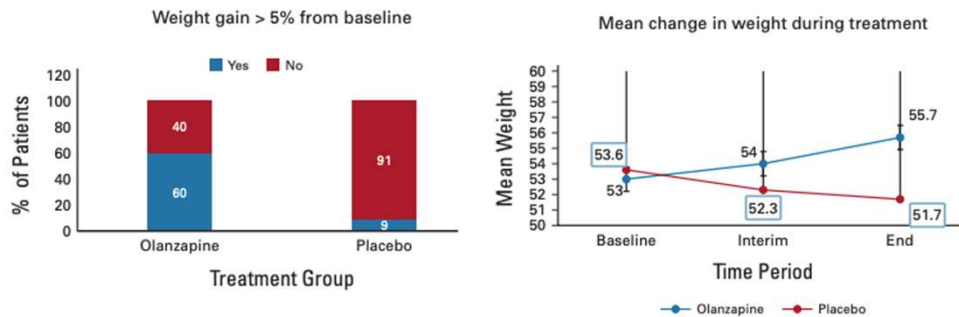


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**Olanzapine** during chemotherapy can improve weight gain, appetite, and chemotherapy-induced nausea.

RCT of olanzapine versus placebo among patients starting palliative-intent chemotherapy for gastric, HPB, and lung Cancer



Sandhya et al., JCO, 2023

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### Case 2 – 56-year-old man with thymic carcinoma

The patient is prescribed oral dexamethasone and starts using cannabis for both appetite stimulation and sleep. He continues to lose weight, repeat scans show further progression, and he elects for hospice.

#### Take Home Messages

- **Olanzapine** can improve weight gain and appetite for patients receiving chemotherapy
- **Early RD referral** for patients at risk for developing cancer cachexia

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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

Presents with 6 cm left breast lower inner quadrant mass

**Pathology:** invasive ductal carcinoma, ER positive (91-100%), PR positive (21-30%), HER2 2+ by IHC, FISH negative

**Staging:** Left axilla clinically node negative, no suspicious nodes on MRI breast or CT chest

**Genetic testing:** Negative 26-gene panel for pathogenic mutations

**Treatment recommendation:** Evaluated by surgical and medical oncology and recommended to start **neoadjuvant chemotherapy** for Stage IIB (cT3N0M0) breast cancer

**Social history:** She is married and has no children



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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

**Question 1: What would you recommend regarding fertility preservation for this young woman starting curative intent chemotherapy for stage IIB breast cancer?**

1. No additional recommendations, proceed with neoadjuvant chemotherapy
2. Referral for egg retrieval
3. Referral to AYA specialist
4. Start leuprolide ovarian suppression



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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

She receives ovarian suppression and completes neoadjuvant chemotherapy with excellent response.

She undergoes a left skin-sparing mastectomy and SLNB, which reveals minimal residual invasive mammary carcinoma (pT1bN0). She is **started on tamoxifen 20 mg PO daily** and continues on leuprolide.

During follow-up, she reports difficulty with sexual intercourse. On further questioning, you learn she has vaginal dryness.



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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

**Question 2: What would you recommend for this young woman on endocrine therapy who is experiencing sexual dysfunction?**

1. Referral to OB/GYN
2. Referral to patient support group
3. Referral to physical therapy for pelvic floor disorder
4. Referral to primary care
5. Topical estrogen
6. Topical lubricant



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### Sexual dysfunction is common among women with breast cancer.

#### SOFT/TEXT Trials among Pre-Menopausal Women

Adverse Event	Tamoxifen (N=1005)		Tamoxifen plus Ovarian Suppression (N=2326)		Exemestane plus Ovarian Suppression (N=2317)	
	Any Event	Grade 3 or 4 Event	Any Event	Grade 3 or 4 Event	Any Event	Grade 3 or 4 Event
			number of patients (percent)			
Any targeted adverse event	962 (95.7)	247 (24.6)	2295 (98.7)	721 (31.0)	2288 (98.7)	748 (32.3)
Hot flushes	808 (80.4)	78 (7.8)	2175 (93.5)	284 (12.2)	2141 (92.4)	234 (10.1)
Depression	476 (47.4)	41 (4.1)	1195 (51.4)	108 (4.6)	1197 (51.7)	95 (4.1)
Sweating	492 (49.0)	NA	1391 (59.8)	NA	1286 (55.5)	NA
Vaginal dryness	426 (42.4)	NA	1144 (49.2)	NA	1245 (53.7)	NA
Decreased libido	434 (43.2)	NA	981 (42.2)	NA	1056 (45.6)	NA
Dyspareunia	242 (24.1)	16 (1.6)	636 (27.3)	35 (1.5)	733 (31.6)	56 (2.4)
Urinary incontinence	166 (16.5)	6 (0.6)	433 (18.6)	9 (0.4)	317 (13.7)	9 (0.4)

Francis et al., NEJM, 2018

#### Cohort Study: No evidence of increase in breast-cancer specific mortality with vaginal estrogen

Analysis	No. of events	Person-years	Adjusted HR (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	P value
<b>Pooled</b>				
No HRT	5624	285 342	1 [Reference]	NA
Systemic HRT	51	3894	0.90 (0.63-1.28)	.56
Only vaginal estrogen therapy	120	11437	0.72 (0.60-0.86)	<.001
1-4 Vaginal estrogen therapy prescriptions	105	9374	0.75 (0.62-0.92)	.005
≥5 Vaginal estrogen therapy prescriptions	15	2062	0.55 (0.32-0.97)	.04
Lower-dose vaginal estrogen therapy	92-97 <sup>c</sup>	9098	0.71 (0.55-0.93)	.01
Higher-dose vaginal estrogen therapy <sup>d</sup>	23-28 <sup>c</sup>	2339	0.78 (0.53-1.15)	.22

McVicker et al., JAMA Oncology 2024

*It is recommended that there be a discussion with the patient, initiated by a member of the health-care team, regarding sexual health and dysfunction resulting from cancer or its treatment. -- ASCO guidelines*

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Common Sexual Health Problems	Summary of Potential Interventions
<b>Genital symptoms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including symptoms of VVA (vaginal dryness, irritation, soreness, and pain, as well as urinary frequency, urgency, and incontinence)</li> </ul> <b>What is the biggest barrier?</b> No pain with intercourse? <b>When/where does this barrier actually occur?</b> At the start with penetration only? <b>When a barrier occurs how do we get you back?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaginal moisturizers and lubricants</li> <li>Skin sealants and protectants</li> <li>Hormone therapies (low-dose vaginal estrogen)</li> <li>Lidocaine (topical) and pain relievers</li> <li>Dilator therapy/Vibrators</li> <li>Pelvic floor therapy</li> <li>Cognitive behavioral therapy</li> <li>Vaginal laser therapy</li> </ul>
<b>Vasomotor symptoms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot flashes and night sweats/sleep interference</li> </ul>	Medication review, ETOH use, teaspoon of peanut butter at night (hypoglycemia...) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonafide products (OTC supplement)</li> <li>Cooling options: Chillow Pillow, Ooler bed cooling system, etc.</li> <li>Nonhormonal options: venlafaxine, gabapentin, oxybutynin, NKB antagonists <b>fezolinetant/VEOZAH 5/2023 FDA approval</b></li> <li>Psychosocial counseling and/or clinical hypnosis (EVIA 5 week ap- evidence based)</li> <li>Sleep hygiene/CBT (Cognitive behavioral therapy)</li> </ul>
<b>Decreased sexual response</b>	Medication review, ETOH use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychosocial counseling</li> <li>Regular stimulation</li> <li>CNS agents: Flibanserlin or injection of Bremelanotide (Vyleesi) increases desire</li> </ul>
<b>Reduced overall sexual functioning and satisfaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychosocial counseling</li> <li>Physical exercises or pelvic floor therapy</li> <li>Schedule SEX; "nooner"</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intimacy or relationship concerns</li> <li>Body image issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychosocial counseling</li> </ul>

### Therapeutic Approach for Sexual Dysfunction Among Women



**LOWEST DOSING !!**  
**But higher cost >\$300/mo**

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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

She works with a sexual health therapist and uses topical lubricant with improvement. Two years later, she would like to discuss whether she can attempt pregnancy.

**Question 3: What would you recommend to this young woman on endocrine therapy for curable breast cancer who desires to have a biological child?**

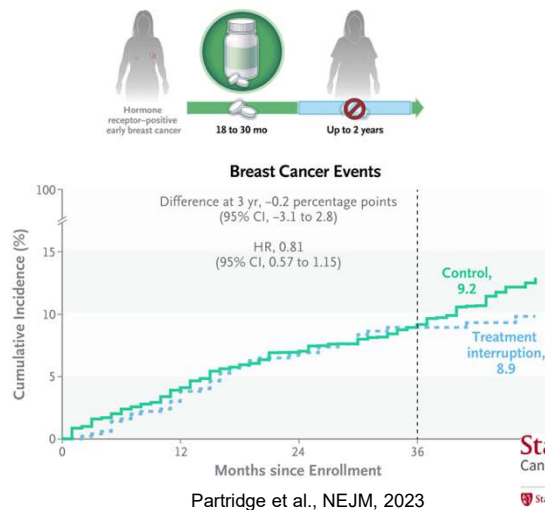
1. Present the data “gray zone” in context of patient’s disease and preferences
2. Recommend that endocrine therapy can be safely interrupted
3. Recommend that endocrine therapy cannot be safely interrupted
4. Referral to AYA specialist
5. Referral to patient support group

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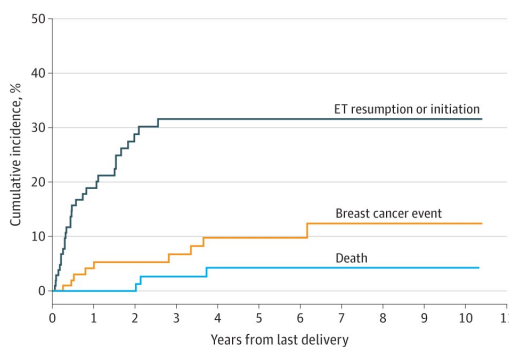
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### Attempting Pregnancy in Curable Breast Cancer

**POSITIVE Trial:** single arm study, compared to external control cohort



Low resumption of resuming endocrine therapy after a pause for pregnancy



Ransohoff et al., JAMA Oncology, 2025

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### Case 3 – 28F with breast cancer

After shared decision making, she decides to not attempt pregnancy and remains on endocrine therapy.

#### Take Home Messages

- **POSITIVE Trial:** At 3 years of follow-up, there is no increased risk of breast cancer when endocrine therapy is interrupted for pregnancy in this select population, but real-world data show that **resumption of endocrine therapy is rare** after pregnancy.
- “It is recommended that there be a discussion with the patient, initiated by a member of the health-care team, regarding sexual health and dysfunction resulting from cancer or its treatment.” -- ASCO guidelines
- There are MULTI-disciplinary Interventions/options but you need to ask/respond/refer!



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### Case 4 – 56F with adrenal cortical carcinoma

Presents with abdominal bloating, found to have 17 cm mass arising from R adrenal gland. Biopsy confirms **adrenal cortical carcinoma**.

She is evaluated by surgical and medical oncology and recommended to start systemic therapy prior to consideration of surgical resection.

Develops new pulmonary metastases on **mitotane and hydrocortisone** and starts on EDP chemotherapy (etoposide, doxorubicin, cisplatin).

She has profound fatigue that has developed over several months and is now sleeping most of the day. Evaluated by endocrinology who notes no adrenal insufficiency or other endocrine explanation for the fatigue.



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### Case 4 – 56F with adrenal cortical carcinoma

**Question 1: What would you recommend for this 56F with metastatic cancer on chemotherapy who is reporting profound fatigue?**

1. Caffeine
2. Dexamethasone
3. Modafinil
4. Ginseng supplementation
5. Exercise
6. Light therapy
7. Cognitive behavioral therapy

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### ASCO Guidelines: Fatigue During Active Cancer Treatment

		Quality of Evidence	
		Low	Moderate
Strength of Recommendation	Strong Support		Resistance training, aerobic exercise, Tai chi, or qigong Cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness-based programs
	Conditional Support	American ginseng at 2,000 mg daily	Psychoeducation
	Conditional Against	Should not recommend L-carnitine	Should not routinely recommend psychostimulants (e.g., methylphenidate) or antidepressants (e.g., paroxetine)
	Strong Against		Should not recommend wakefulness agents (e.g., modafinil)

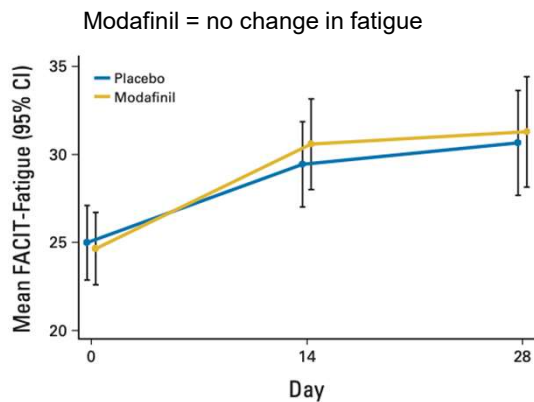
**No recommendation for or against**  
acupressure, CoQ10, minocycline, music therapy, progressive muscle relaxation, yoga

Adapted from Bower et al., JCO 2024

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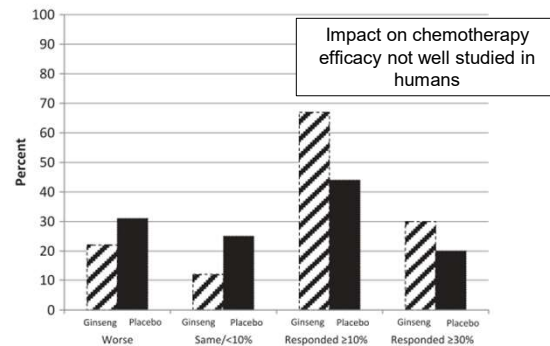
### Pharmacologic options for cancer-related fatigue



Randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled trial among patients with lung cancer

Spathis et al., JCO, 2014

American ginseng = favorable 8-week response



Impact on chemotherapy efficacy not well studied in humans

Randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled trial among patients with cancer who were undergoing or completed curative intent treatment

Barton et al., JNCI, 2013

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### Case 4 – 56F with adrenal cortical carcinoma

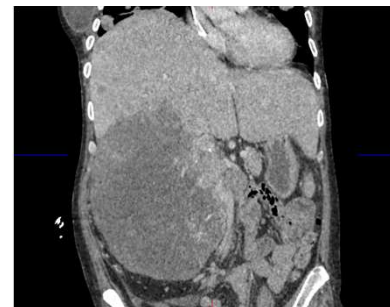
Patient starts herbal supplementation for her fatigue and abdominal discomfort.

Her next dose of chemotherapy is held for worsening functional status

She ultimately elects for hospice



Rapid growth



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### Supportive Oncology and Survivorship Panel

**Cancer survivorship care** includes evaluation for disease recurrence and secondary cancers; and management of chronic effects from cancer treatment, chronic medical conditions, and psychosocial conditions

**Early RD referral** is critical for patients at risk for cancer cachexia

**Olanzapine** can improve weight gain and appetite

There are multidisciplinary options for **sexual dysfunction**, but oncologists need to ask/respond/refer

Careful shared decision making is critical to support young women **regarding fertility and pregnancy**

**Exercise and CBT** have the strongest data for cancer-related fatigue

**Multidisciplinary teams are critical to support our patients**